

Presenters:

Zealous Advocacy in CHIPS Cases: What Parent Attorneys Need to Know to Effectively Advocate for their Clients

October Allen

October Allen grew up on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation and was taken into foster care at the age of 12 due to her mother's battle with alcoholism. She was never reunited with her mother and instead went on to the juvenile justice system. At the age of 17 she became a mother herself and for the next 8 years raised a family. After the death of her son, she became addicted to methamphetamine and ended up with a child protection case herself. With the support of the community, family and recovery services, she successfully gained back custody of her children. When the judge ordered custody to be returned to her, he stated, "In 40 years, I have never seen anyone do what you have just done, would you help other moms do what you have just done?"

For the past 5 years Ms. Allen has worked as a parent mentor in St. Louis and Carlton County and has assisted with 100 families and their journey through the child protection process. Ms. Allen has a heart for women in recovery and volunteers at treatment centers and monthly at the St. Louis County jail while she serves as the Women's Life Skills Group leader at Celebrate Recovery in Duluth MN. Ms. Allen is married to Pastor Ron Allen and lives in Duluth with her children who have healed a great deal and no longer are plagued by the fear of ever going back into foster care again. Her children watched as their mother gave a commencement speech at the 2019 Graduation Ceremony at Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College in May 2019 graduating as Student of the year, and with High Honors. Ms. Allen went on to become a housing support provider for St. Louis County and opened Grace Place I and Grace Place II where she houses 12 women who are considered long term homeless and provides support to them to ensure they live the best life possible. While at Grace Place the women work on skill building and Ms. Allen creates opportunity for the women to grow into who they have always wanted to become.

Kristin Bellanger

Kristin Bellanger is a strong, independent Native American mother of 6 beautiful children from St. Louis County, Minnesota. She had a child protection case and was successfully reunified with her children in 2017. Her children were originally removed from her care due to domestic violence in the home. Kristin quickly saw that it was important to gather support and services from the community in order to find her independence. After successfully reunifying with her children, she went on to become a college student, earning her CNA certificate and is excited to continue on in obtaining her degree in Nursing. Kristin has a passion for helping other parents involved in domestic violence situations and works heavily in the community by empowering women to believe that

change is possible. Kristin will be starting work as an ICWA Parent Mentor in St. Louis County by the end of 2019 helping other parents reunify with their children.

Hon. Hilary Caligiuri

Hilary Lindell Caligiuri was appointed to the district court bench in the Fourth District, Hennepin County, in 2014. She currently serves in juvenile court, presiding over the Legacy (formerly State Ward) Calendar and handling child protection and delinquency cases. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Caligiuri was a Senior Assistant Hennepin County Attorney and supervisor of the office's Drug Team. As a prosecutor, she tried primarily violent crime and drug cases. Prior to joining the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Judge Caligiuri was a Deputy Attorney General, overseeing the Civil Litigation, Torts and Employment Law, Medicaid Fraud, and Tax Litigation Divisions within the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. She also managed the AGO's Criminal Trial Division. She received her law degree from the University of Minnesota and holds a B.A. in Soviet Studies from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Elizabeth Carlson

Elizabeth Carlson, Ph.D., L.P. is a Senior Researcher, Affiliate Graduate Faculty, and Director of the Irving Harris Training Programs at the Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota. Dr. Carlson conducts research on the Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Risk and Adaptation, focusing on the effects of early experience on social/emotional development and psychopathology. She is co-author of the book, *The Development of the Person*, the primary publication from the longitudinal study. Dr. Carlson directs the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health programs that provide training in early childhood development and its application to policy and practice. She is an internationally recognized trainer in infant attachment and works directly with young children and families at risk in clinical practice.

Amy Chantry

Ms. Chantry graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1997. Upon being admitted to the bar in 1997, Ms. Chantry worked as a law clerk for the Honorable David R. Battey, in Alexandria, Minnesota. Ms. Chantry began representing parents in child protection and permanency matters as a full-time public defender in Benton County in 1999. In 2006, Ms. Chantry opened her own law practice and represented parents in child protection and permanency matters throughout the state. As part of her practice, Ms. Chantry also served as a contract Administrative Law Judge with the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings. Since October 2018, Ms. Chantry has served as a judge for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Ms. Chantry can be contacted via telephone at 320-282-8966 or via e-mail at tachantry@gmail.com.

Lisa Crockett

Lisa Crockett is a mother of seven who moved to Minnesota for a better life for her family. In 2006 Ms. Crockett became involved with a group of women at Merrick Community Center who wanted to make a difference in the lives of parents involved in the child welfare system. She went through an extensive amount of training around the child protection system and the culture of communities. Ms. Crockett has held weekly groups with young ladies around domestic violence, housing, nutrition, and teen pregnancy. She has also interacted in summer

camp activities and other programs in connection with St. Paul Youth Services and local police department to keep inner city youth off the streets. Ms. Crockett is now the Director of The Parent Mentor Program with Minnesota One-Stop for Communities.

Melanie Dotty

Melanie Dotty has been practicing law for over 22 years. She initially worked for the State of Minnesota Public Defender's Office for seven years where she represented children in juvenile delinquency matters and parents in child protection proceedings. After leaving the Public Defender's Office, she worked primarily as a contract attorney for Guardians ad Litem in child protection matters throughout the Ninth Judicial District. For the past decade, she has been a contract attorney for Crow Wing County representing parents in child protection proceedings, as well as handling child support and paternity cases. She has also worked as a court appointed custody evaluator in family law cases for over fifteen years.

Carmen Finn

Carmen Finn MA, LADC, ADCR-MN, "Finn", is the current Clinical Director at Recovering Hope Treatment Center in Mora, Minnesota. She has over eighteen years of experience providing services to families and individuals in the field of behavioral health. Finn is licensed as an alcohol and drug counselor in the State of Minnesota and obtained her Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. Additionally, Finn is a Community Faculty member at Metropolitan State University and teaches in the Alcohol and Drug Counseling program. Finn is also a member of the Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH) Ethics Committee, as well as an elected member of the MARRCH Board of Governors for Region 11. Her interests include gender, ethics, research, LGBTQ issues, and addiction and the family.

Cathleen Gabriel

Cathleen Gabriel graduated from Hamline School of Law in 2004. During law school Mrs. Gabriel was a law clerk in the Washington County Attorney's Office. (2002-2004). Mrs. Gabriel clerked for the Honorable Karla F. Hancock in Sherburne County from 2004-2006. Mrs. Gabriel was an assistant Benton County Attorney from 2006-2008. In the Benton County Attorney's Office she primarily represented Benton Human Services in child protection, commitment and maltreat matters. In July 2008, Mrs. Gabriel contracted with Wright and Sherburne Counties to represent parents. In 2013, Mrs. Gabriel also started working part-time for the Public Defender's Office in the juvenile division. Mrs. Gabriel was a former president of the 18th district bar association, is the chair of the Wright County Defense Panel, voluntary attorney for the Wright County Legal Clinic and a member of the Sherburne and Wright children's justice initiative teams. Mrs. Gabriel's law office is in Annandale, MN. Her office number(s) are 763-269-4452 and 651-253-2675.

Jon Geffen

Jon Geffen is a respected and experienced attorney who practices in many areas, including civil maltreatment law. For more than a decade, he has helped numerous individuals contest maltreatment findings. Mr. Geffen has argued maltreatment cases in administrative settings, district court, and the Minnesota Court of Appeals. After

graduating from William Mitchell College of Law *cum laude* in 1997, he began practicing law with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (“SMRLS”) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Geffen repeatedly learned from clients the damaging collateral consequences of a civil maltreatment finding. In 2006, he was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General and represented the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Here, Mr. Geffen gained a deeper knowledge of how maltreatment determinations affect licensed professions including child care, foster care, and chemical dependency counseling. From 2009 through 2019 Mr. Geffen was a partner at Arneson and Geffen, PLLC in Minneapolis. In August 2019, Mr. Geffen became the Director of the Reentry Clinic at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. The Reentry Clinic assists those in reentry from the criminal justice system with civil legal problems.

Nicole Gronneberg

Nicole Gronneberg has worked as a court appointed parent attorney in Ramsey County since 2012. In this role, she represents parents in child protection, permanency and appellate matters. Ms. Gronneberg is a zealous advocate for parents. She believes in the value of family and in the importance of giving a voice to underrepresented populations. Prior to her work as a court appointed attorney, she clerked for the Honorable Marybeth Dorn in Ramsey County from 2010 to 2012 on the Juvenile and Family rotation. Ms. Gronneberg is currently the court appointed parent attorney delegate for the Ramsey County Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI) team. In addition to her work as a parent attorney in juvenile protection matters, she practices family law and recently finished her first year teaching Representation for the Writing and Representation: Advice and Persuasion course at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Ms. Gronneberg may be contacted at Gronneberg Law Office, 612-875-6238, nicole@advolawmn.com.

Suzanne Guertin

Suzanne Guertin is a staff attorney at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS), where she practices family law and juvenile protection law with an emphasis on cases involving the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). She has presented at the Annual NICWA Conference and sits on the Rules Committee for the Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure. In family law cases, SMRLS concentrates its efforts on helping victims of domestic violence, limited-English proficient clients who would otherwise have trouble navigating the family court system, and cases involving stability for children. All of SMRLS clients are low-income, which LSC defines as 187% of the federal poverty guidelines.

In addition to her court appearances, Suzanne works closely with both clients and community agencies, including the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Ain Dah Yung Center, and the American Indian Family Center in St. Paul. Prior to joining SMRLS, Suzanne worked for the Hennepin County Public Defender in the juvenile division and as a law clerk. She also worked for the Law Office of Charles La Due, which focused on civil cases and provided legal services to the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

Ann Hackel

Ann Hackel is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 20 years of experience in state and county agencies working with at risk populations with a focus on Trauma Informed Care,

inclusion, forensic interviewing, and legislative work. Ms. Hackel has a Master's of Social Work from the University of Minnesota and an undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She was named as a Child Welfare Scholar during her graduate program and continues this work with children and families who have been maltreated. In 2017, Ms. Hackel was appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court Rules of Juvenile Protection Advisory Committee. For the last 15 years, she has worked as an Assessment Social Worker with Dakota County Social Services. She investigates allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Ms. Hackel enjoys opportunities to build networks with community partners to strengthen resiliency in children and families served.

Danielle Hendrickson

Danielle Hendrickson is a staff attorney in the Immigration Law Project at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid ("MMLA") in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She previously was an immigration attorney at MMLA's Willmar Office and has over five years of immigration law experience. She represents clients in a wide range of immigration cases, including VAWA-based petitions, U visas for victims of crime, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, naturalization, and permanent residency. She regularly provides representation before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the immigration court. Ms. Hendrickson graduated with honors from Drexel University's Kline School of Law in May 2014.

Hon. Juan Hoyos

Honorable Juan Hoyos was appointed to the Fourth Judicial District bench in 2014 by Governor Mark Dayton and elected in 2016. His current term expires January of 2023. Judge Hoyos is currently assigned to juvenile court. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Hoyos was a prosecutor in Ramsey County for nine years, and a Public Defender for 13 years in Dakota and Ramsey County and with the State Public Defender's Office. Judge Hoyos teaches evidence at the University of St. Thomas Law School. Judge Hoyos received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota - Duluth and his J.D. from William Mitchel College of Law School. He is a member of the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners, Hennepin County Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and Warren Burger Inn of Court.

Susan Humiston

Susan Humiston is the director of the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility and Client Security Board. She has more than 20 years of litigation experience, as well as a strong ethics and compliance background. Prior to her appointment as director in 2016, Ms. Humiston was Vice-President and Assistant General Counsel for Alliant Techsystems Inc. and its public company spin-off Vista Outdoor Inc., and was a litigation partner at Leonard, Street and Deinard, now Stinson LLP. She clerked for U.S. District Court Judge David S. Doty, is an honors graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, and received her B.A. with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Tiffany Hunsley

Tiffany Hunsley is the founder and Chief Executive Officer at Recovery Is Happening. Having personally battled and persevered through substance use challenges, Ms. Hunsley made the decision in 2011 to dedicate her life to serving others, helping them

navigate out of the darkness and into a new way to live. These are opportunities that she feels were not available to her during her own struggles. Her plan was to create a peer led recovery environment that is able to essentially create new patterns of behavior, while maintaining a high level of accountability and affordability that nearly anyone can meet. Today Recovery Is Happening represents Ms. Hunsley's vision of moving beyond addiction and leading a life in recovery.

Erin Johnson

Erin Johnson graduated from William Mitchell College of Law (WMCL) in 2004. During that time, she discovered the world of child protection while working as a law clerk in the Child Protection Division of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office. She clerked for the Honorable Michael Mayer in Dakota County from 2004-2005. In 2005, she began working as an assistant county attorney in Washington County. Her current caseload is primarily child protection cases. Ms. Johnson is the co-chair of the CHIPS Subcommittee for the Minnesota County Attorney's Association ("MCAA"). As a representative of MCAA, Ms. Johnson has served on numerous work groups regarding policy and practice issues relating to child welfare and child protection. Ms. Johnson is also a current member of the Juvenile Protection Rules Committee.

Janine LePage

Janine LePage has worked with Crow Wing County for over 23 years. For 19 years, she represented social services in child protection and permanency matters, along with handling civil commitments, delinquency matters, and administrative appeals. Four years ago, she moved to adult prosecution and now prosecutes criminal matters involving allegations of criminal sexual conduct, child pornography, all felony level offenses arising from domestic relationships, and all gross misdemeanor and felony cases relating to child abuse or endangerment. Ms. LePage continues to maintain a strong interest in the child protection issues commonly present in these very difficult cases.

Nicole Lindemyer

Nicole Lindemyer is an attorney with over two decades of experience in gender-based violence through various roles and functions—direct services to survivors, federal and state court litigation, program management, public policy, and community outreach and education. After earning her Juris Doctorate degree *cum laude* from the University of Minnesota Law School, she received a prestigious Equal Justice Fellowship in 2001 to work with the Housing Discrimination Law Project of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis on the issue of sexual extortion in the rental housing market; her research in this topic was published in *Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice*. Following her fellowship, Ms. Lindemyer worked as a Program Manager with the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, then moved to Pennsylvania, where she held positions as Public Policy Manager with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Community Education Director for the YWCA York. After returning to Minnesota, she worked as Executive Director of Breaking Free and Call for Justice, and as Policy and Public Affairs Manager for Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Ms. Lindemyer currently works at the MN Department of Human Services in the Child Safety and Permanency Division, specializing in the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and

intimate partner violence.

Rebecca McConkey-Greene

Rebecca McConkey-Greene is an attorney, licensed in the State of Minnesota as well as the White Earth, and Bois Forte Tribal Courts. Ms. McConkey-Greene received her Juris Doctorate in 2007 from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, MN. She also has a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Finance. Ms. McConkey-Greene began her legal career as a staff attorney for Anishinaabe Legal Services, a staff attorney with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and both a contracted and staff attorney for the White Earth Band of Chippewa before entering into private practice in 2014. Ms. McConkey-Greene specializes in Indian Child Welfare proceedings, child protection matters, family court matters, and Indian law. Ms. McConkey-Greene currently participates in the St. Louis County ICWA Court Advisory Panel and has provided training throughout the nation on matters such as Qualified Expert Witness testimony, the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Ms. McConkey-Greene has had the honor of participating in multiple advisory groups that directly impacted the development of new Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) legislation, and other legislation and policy directly impacting families for whom the ICWA was designed.

Deena McMahon, MSW, LICSW

Deena McMahon is a family therapist with over 30 years' experience. She has developed a national reputation for excellence in areas ranging from attachment therapy and adoption dynamics to childhood sexual abuse and trauma. In addition to her therapy caseload, Ms. McMahon provides forensic assessments and frequently serves as an expert witness in court proceedings regarding permanency placements, child custody, and other issues. She is a faculty consultant for the Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Program, as well as an adviser to numerous child protection agencies, adoption organizations, and parent support groups. Ms. McMahon presents national and regional trainings on a variety of mental health topics to a wide range of parents and professionals including state judges, social services, educators, foster care providers, and mental health workers. Several of Ms. McMahon's trainings have been adopted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services as best practice protocol; she also developed a children's mental health curriculum which is required across Minnesota for foster care licensing CEU. Additionally, Ms. McMahon authored the Child Development chapter of the Minnesota Juvenile Protection Court Bench Book, the manual judges rely on for best practice. For more information about Deena McMahon, please visit mcmahonccs.net.

Ralph Overholt

Mr. Overholt is an accomplished attorney with over 25 years of practice. Mr. Overholt successfully represented clients in a variety of forums including Federal and State appellate and evidentiary courts, administrative agency hearings, and Tribal Courts. For 10 years, Mr. Overholt served as a Hennepin County Conciliation Court Judge. He also served as an adjunct faculty at William Mitchell College of Law for 10 years and taught for the National Association of Trial Attorneys (NITA) inculcating trial skills. He also served as a Training Attorney with the American Bar Association at the Louis Arthur Grimes

School of Law in Monrovia, Liberia. He went on to be a Justice Advisor to the U.S. Embassy/INL on rule of law issues and implemented various capacity building programs with the Republic of Liberia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In his present position with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe he represents the Band in governance matters including the enforcement of ICWA and MIFPA. His work is published in several case reporters, news outlets and peer reviewed publications. In addition to a Juris Doctor degree, he holds a Master's degree with honors in Public Affairs concentrated on Global Public Policy.

Larene Randle- Wade

Through her own experience years ago, Larene Randle-Wade began her career out of wanting the voices of parents in the child welfare system to be heard. She joined the Parent Leadership Team with Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota in 2009. This team was created to bring parents voices to the table through the shared collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. As a result of being on the Parent Leadership Team, Ms. Randle-Wade was invited to sit on the advisory council for William Mitchell College of Law Child Protection Clinic. While on that advisory council, she brought the idea of parents helping parents navigate the child welfare system. With support from William Mitchell, Ms. Randle-Wade created the Parent Mentor Program. Since 2012, the Parent Mentor Program has become a trusted ally to parents across seven-counties and growing. In 2016, Ms. Randle-Wade became the CEO of a new non-profit called Minnesota One-Stop for Communities. Her organization provides non-traditional methods of supportive services to parents in crisis. Her leadership team, known as the Parent Mentors, think outside the box creating options with boldness while de-escalating crisis as a different approach. Parent Mentors are everyday people and parents appreciate that their mentors look like them and can relate to the trials from their life's experiences.

Ashley Reyes

Ashley Reyes is a Native American mom of 4 wonderful children from Saint Paul, Minnesota. She had a child protection case and worked hard with their father towards the best outcome for the children in 2019. Her children were originally removed from her care due to chemical dependency issues and mental health challenges. Throughout a difficult pregnancy and fighting for her other three children, Ms. Reyes completed treatment and reached out to her community for extra supports. She continues to work on herself through intensive therapy from community providers, and maintains a great relationship with the father of her child who now has custody. Ms. Reyes is working on her healing process to have a better quality of life while learning how to sew and sticking close to her culture in the Native American community. She likes sharing her story with others and hopes to create better systems on how to serve parents in child protection.

Hon. John Rodenberg

Judge John R. Rodenberg was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, where he has served since February 2012. Previously he served as a district judge in the Fifth Judicial District, chambered in New Ulm. He has served as a member of the Minnesota Judicial Council, the Special Redistricting Panel after the 2010 census, and the Minnesota Drug Court Initiative. Judge Rodenberg was a partner in the

law firm of Berens, Rodenberg & O'Connor, New Ulm, from 1982 until 2000. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College in 1978 and his Juris Doctorate from Hamline University School of Law in 1981. Judge Rodenberg has received the Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence from the Minnesota State Bar Association Public Law Section in 2010. He is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Ninth District Bar Association, the Brown County Bar Association and the Minnesota District Judges Association. Judge Rodenberg has served as a member of the Minnesota Children's Justice Initiative (CJI) Advisory Committee, and was both the Brown County CJI Lead Judge and Fifth Judicial District Lead Judge while on the district bench.

Diana Rugh Johnson

Diana Rugh Johnson is a Child Welfare Law Specialist who also serves as a Judge Pro Tempore in the Juvenile Court of DeKalb County, Georgia. She has been practicing law for ten years, specializing in child welfare law and Social Security Disability. Ms. Rugh Johnson holds a Master's Degree in Biochemistry from Clemson University and a law degree from Georgia State University. She is a member of the National Association of Counsel for Children and was the 2010 recipient of their Stephen Cahn Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Ms. Rugh Johnson is a member of the Georgia Supreme Court's Committee on Justice for Children and the Parent Attorney Advocacy Committee. She serves on the steering committee of the ABA's Parent Representation Project and on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children. Ms. Rugh Johnson teaches other child welfare attorneys in Georgia and across the United States on a variety of topics including trial skills, effective case planning, understanding drug tests, and due diligence in medically-complicated cases.

Jessica Ryan

Jessica Ryan is an enrolled member of the Brothertown Indian Nation, where she also serves as an elected Tribal Council member. She graduated from Hamline Law School in 1997. Ms. Ryan has clerked for State and Tribal Court Judges and currently represents Tribes in both state and tribal court proceedings as an attorney in a law firm that specializes in practicing federal Indian law. She is active in legislative policy analysis affecting Indian families and collaborates with various tribes, counties and states to develop policy and practice that better serves American Indian families. Ms. Ryan was actively involved in collaborating to revise the Tribal/State Agreement; participated in developing the Juvenile Judge's Benchbook – ICWA Chapter; and has served on numerous Supreme Court Committees including the Race Bias Task Force; the Minnesota Tribal Court/State Court Judges; the Juvenile Rules Committee; and has been active in the Children's Justice Initiative. Ms. Ryan helped establish the Hennepin County ICWA Guardian ad litem panel and subsequently served as guardian ad litem for ICWA cases for several years. She has served on the Board of Directors for a number of American Indian non-profit organizations. Ms. Ryan has been admitted to practice law in Minnesota and several Tribal Courts; and has served as an appellate Court Judge for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and an Associate Judge for the Lower Sioux Indian Community.

Rachelle Stratton

Rachelle Stratton currently serves as the Supervising Attorney of the newly created Adult

Representation Services (ARS) – Child Protection Defense Unit in Hennepin County. This new division was created by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners to provide exceptional and consistent court-appointed representation to both custodial and non-custodial parents or guardians in child protection proceedings. Ms. Stratton began her career as an attorney in the Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office in 1995, where she spent the majority of her time practicing in the areas of child protection and juvenile delinquency. She worked there until the launch of ARS in the fall 2018.

Anne Tyler Gueinzius

Anne Tyler Gueinzius is the Managing Attorney at Children’s Law Center (CLC) of Minnesota, where she manages volunteer attorneys who work directly with foster care youth, and provides direct representation for a discrete number of foster care youth. She has served on the Minnesota Juvenile Protection Rules Advisory Committee from 2009 to 2017 and she has been representing children in juvenile court since 1997. She received the Minnesota State Bar Association’s 2010 Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz Child Advocate & Service Award and she was selected a 2014 Attorney of the Year by *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine. Ms. Gueinzius has authored several articles and "Practice Points" on legal issues that arise in CLC cases. She has co-authored a 2014 William Mitchell law review article with former CLC staff attorney Julia Hillel regarding permanency best practices for foster care youth and she recently submitted an article to be published in the upcoming Mitchell Hamline Law review on legal representation of abused and neglected children. Ms. Gueinzius received her Juris Doctor from Hamline University School of Law (now Mitchell Hamline) and her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.

Rebecca Vanden Hanen

Rebecca (“Becca”) Vanden Hanen has worked with the Minnesota Judicial Branch for over 10 years. Ms. Vanden Hanen serves as a Staff Attorney for the Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI), a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Judicial Branch and the Minnesota Department of Human Services designed to address systems change in the juvenile court process. She staffs the Tribal Court State Court Forum and has contributed to the Child Focused Parenting Time Guide Workgroup.

Prior to her work with the State Court Administrator’s Office, Ms. Vanden Hanen was a staff attorney with the Minnesota Judicial Branch’s Self-Represented Litigant Program where she provided direct service to self-represented litigants in family court and juvenile court matters and worked closely with the bench and court administration in Hennepin County and throughout the State of Minnesota to improve access to justice for children and families. Ms. Vanden Hanen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2008.

Adam Vetvick

Adam Vetvick began his professional career working in social services as a case manager for at-risk youth in St. Paul/Ramsey County. He continued working with teens and families in Chicago. He began attending law school in the evenings while living and working in Chicago. After finishing law school, Mr. Vetvick moved back to Minnesota and began practicing law with a civil litigation firm. He then moved to Washington D.C. and worked

as a recruiter and project manager there. Then, Mr. Vetvick moved back to Minnesota and began his own law practice. In conjunction with his law practice, he worked as a panel attorney with the 4th Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program representing GALs at CHIPS and TPR trials, as well as a public policy consultant. Additionally, he worked as a court appointed attorney for parents in Ramsey County. Mr. Vetvick eventually became the staff attorney for the 4th Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program representing and advising the program and individual GALs on cases. Recently, Mr. Vetvick became an assistant Hennepin County Attorney in the Child Protection Division.

Kari Willis

After admittance to the bar in 2004, Ms. Willis worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Kim Johnson, in Buffalo, Minnesota. In 2008, Ms. Willis began working for the criminal division of the Wright County Attorney's Office. Ms. Willis has been involved in representing Wright County Health and Human Services since 2010 and has exclusively been involved with child protection since 2012. Ms. Willis strongly promotes an approach of team work and collaboration with Court involved child protection matters rather than the typical adversarial process.

Joanna Woolman

Joanna Woolman is an Associate Professor of Law at Mitchell | Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. She also is the director of the school's Child Protection Program. Professor Woolman directs a clinic where law students work with social workers and parent mentors to provide direct representation to parents in the child protection system. Professor Woolman's work with the Child Protection Program includes conducting statewide attorney trainings, community events, and policy work to promote best practices in the area of child protection. Professor Woolman researches, publishes, and presents on issues relating to women's experiences in the criminal and child protection systems. She also teaches criminal law. Professor Woolman received a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1998 and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 2004. Prior to coming to William Mitchell College of Law full time in 2011, Professor Woolman worked as a public defender.

Pat Zenner

Pat Zenner has been practicing law for over 30 years. She has been a full time juvenile public defender for 18 years and then opened her own practice with a part time juvenile public defender contract. Throughout her law career she has represented children, parents and guardians ad litem in the area of child protection.